

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:OVARMSTRONG:EBS

APPROVED BY EA - PCHABIB

EA - WHGLEYSTEN (DRAFT)

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NSC - RSOLOMON (SUBS)

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O 312358Z JUL 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 181607

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: OREP, CH

SUBJECT: BRIEFING OF CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS TO THE
PRC

REF: PEKING 1387

1. SECRETARY GAVE A VERY BROAD-BRUSH BRIEFING. FOLLOWING
ARE HIGHLIGHTS.

2. PRC LEADERS HAVE A HARD-HEADED VIEW OF THE US-PRC
RELATIONSHIP, AND VALUE IT PRIMARILY AS A MEANS OF MAIN-
TAINING A WORLD BALANCE OF POWER TO COUNTER THE SOVIET
UNION. THIS VIEW IS REFLECTED IN THEIR SUPPORT FOR NATO
AND A STRONG US-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP AND THEIR CONCERN THAT
THE SOVIETS WILL INCREASE THEIR INFLUENCE IN THE MIDDLE
EAST AND OTHER REGIONS IN THE WORLD.

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3. TAIWAN HAS OF COURSE BEEN DISCUSSED BUT IS NOT THE

CENTRAL ISSUE IN OUR RELATIONSHIP. WE WILL HAVE TO MOVE FURTHER BUT WHETHER IT IS THIS YEAR, NEXT YEAR OR LATER IS NOT CRITICAL. THE CHINESE HAVE SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL BE WELCOME REGARDLESS OF THE TAIWAN PROBLEM.

4. THE CHINESE ARE CONCERNED THAT A POWERFUL NORTH VIETNAM WILL DOMINATE SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THAT THE SOVIETS WILL HAVE NEW OPENINGS IN INDOCHINA. AT PRESENT THE SOVIETS HAVE MORE INFLUENCE IN HANOI THAN THE CHINESE, BUT HANOI IS NOT A SOVIET STOOGES. THE CHINESE ARE SUPPORTING THE CAMBODIANS, AND DID NOT URGE THE THAIS AND FILIPINOS TO OUST THE U.S.

5. REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF A SUCCESSION CRISIS; WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER MAO AND CHOU DIE. OUTSIDERS KNOW VERY LITTLE ABOUT THE POLITICAL DYNAMICS AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESS IN CHINA.

6. IN THE CONGRESSMEN'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CHINESE, IT WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL TO MAKE SUGGESTIONS FOR SOLVING THE TAIWAN PROBLEM, BUT STRESSING OUR DESIRE FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WOULD BE USEFUL. THE CHINESE WILL WELCOME ANY COMMENTS ABOUT THE U.S. MAINTAINING A GLOBAL ROLE IN ASIA AND EUROPE. SOME MENTION OF BIPARTISAN CONTINUITY IN OUR FOREIGN POLICY WOULD BE USEFUL. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, BRIEFING MATERIALS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, CAT-A
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE181607
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: OVARMSTRONG:EBS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: R9
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850033-1881, N750003-0086
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975072/aaaaabrb.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 75 PEKING 1387
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRIEFING OF CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS TO THE PRC
TAGS: OREP, PREL, PFOR, CH, US
To: PEKING
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006